

U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Course which allowed him to serve as a CID Special Agent until his retirement as a Chief Warrant Officer Four (CW4) in 1989.

In April that same year, he received his appointment as the Criminal Investigator II for the Special Investigations Bureau, Solano Health and Social Services Department and became a member of the California Welfare Fraud Investigators Association. In four short years he was promoted to the position of Supervising Criminal Investigator. His current rank as Chief Criminal Investigator was received in August of 2000.

Robert's dedication to the community is not limited to his work in law enforcement. His desire to serve the community as a positive influence motivated his ordainment to the priesthood of the Orthodox Christian Church in 1996. Upon his retirement from law enforcement, he will continue to serve the community as the pastor of St. Timothy Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church, as he has done since January of 1997. Through his work as pastor he cooperates with a local area food bank to distribute food to many of the areas homeless and those living at or below the poverty level.

However, of all his accomplishments he is probably most proud of his successful 32 year relationship with his wife, Alida, and his two wonderful children: William and Stephanie. Stephanie's daughters, Mikayla and Brianna, have further enriched his personal life.

His fellow employees of the Solano County Health and Social Services, Special Investigation Bureau will forever remember Chief Ruark's extraordinary leadership and contributions to the community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN CENTA

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a man from my district with a genuine zest for life. John Centa of Pueblo, Colorado recently turned one hundred years old. Throughout his century of life, John has spread joy to countless people whom he has met along the way. I am proud to call the attention of this body of Congress and this nation to the contributions that John has made to the Pueblo community.

As a child, John helped his father on his family's farm in Kansas. He then moved to Pueblo, where he was employed with Nuckolls Packing Company for twenty years. Next, John went to work with CF&I in Pueblo. Prior to retirement, John and his friend Don English went into business together as the co-owners of Pueblo's Hurricane Car Wash, which they successfully operated for more than two decades.

Each morning, John shares his boundless energy and ceaseless positive attitude in daily interactions with his many friends throughout Pueblo. One of John's favorite places to share his love of life is on the dance floor. A long time member of the Southern Colorado Family Polka Club, John is an immensely popular dance partner. Those who know him well attribute John's health to his great sense of humor, positive attitude, and ability to find joy in the simple things in life.

Mr. Speaker, John Centa has an uncanny ability to draw others into his daily celebration of life. All of those lucky enough to cross his path are better off for having met him. I am honored to pay tribute to him here today. Thanks John, and happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL STONE, SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 280, which recognizes the 100th anniversary of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association.

As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Subcommittee on Highways, Transit, and Pipelines, I believe it is important that we understand and appreciate the efforts of the Association to improve our Nation's quality of life, and the impact that their products make on our nation's infrastructure and economy.

The National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association is the largest mining trade association in the world.

Its members work tirelessly to provide our Nation with a strong and durable infrastructure. The association encourages and helps aggregate producers to meet and improve upon environmental, health, and safety standards.

We should not forget the importance of aggregates in our daily life: approximately 400 tons of aggregate is used on one home; it makes up 80% of concrete and 94% of asphalt.

We should not forget the importance of aggregates to our economy: every \$1 billion in additional investment in highways creates 47,500 additional jobs.

As we build new homes for American families, new roads and bridges to carry us across this great land, and new schools and hospitals to provide our towns with the best services available, we should remember that the National Stone, Sand & Gravel association and its members provide the foundation for our Nation's infrastructure.

For this, I am honored to join with my colleagues to show my appreciation for this great organization.

PROVIDING RELIABLE OFFICERS, TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION, COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS, AND TRAINING IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS ACT OF 2003

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a public safety bill for the second week in a row. My current bill would reauthorize the successful Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program that has used federal funds to help put more cops on the

streets and to fund community policing. Like a similar Senate bill sponsored by Sen. JOSEPH BIDEN, Jr. (D-DE) and almost 50 other Senators, my bill seeks to head off the shut down of the COPS program, as forecast by the President's 2004 fiscal year budget, which severely cut COPS and critical community policing projects. Last week, I introduced the Crime Victims Assistance Act of 2003 to provide enhanced rights and protections for victims of federal crimes. This bill also has been introduced in the Senate.

As a member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, I have watched police departments here and across the country pressed increasingly into protecting the homeland from potential terrorism. Our police need funding and support from the federal government now more than ever if they also are to continue to focus on the indispensable everyday duties of protecting their communities from street violence and other crime. My bill would provide funding to help police departments put more officers on the beat, purchase high-tech crime fighting tools and technology such as patrol car cameras, pay overtime devoted to community policing and homeland security, and reimburse officers for college or graduate school. Also, my bill would help the U.S. Attorney's office hire more community prosecutors who interact closely with the people they serve. The District of Columbia has been a pioneer in community prosecution, which links prosecutors to specific police districts and neighborhoods.

Recent studies show that COPS grants played a critical role in the crime drop of the nineties. Now with cities like the District experiencing alarming criminal activity, police departments need all the help they can get to find real solutions for handling the heavy double burden of balancing the securing of citizens from terrorism along with protecting them from violence and other crime in their neighborhoods.

Since it was created in the 1994 Crime bill, COPS has awarded more than \$8 billion to police departments to hire or re-deploy almost 120,000 community police officers across the country. In FY 2003, the COPS office awarded \$635 million in grants nationwide, and almost \$7.5 million to the District, \$3 million for Metropolitan Police Department homeland security overtime. In September, I announced a \$750,000 grant for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to hire 10 new Metro officers who will perform community policing and homeland security functions. Many other jurisdictions received similar grants.

My bill will fund the COPS program through 2009. A key change would authorize a new, permanent COPS Overtime Program.

I urge my colleagues to continue to reauthorize the COPS program.

HONORING RICHARD RODRIGUEZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a long time member of the United Farm Workers, Richard Rodriguez. Richard passed away this past Sunday, November 2, 2003.